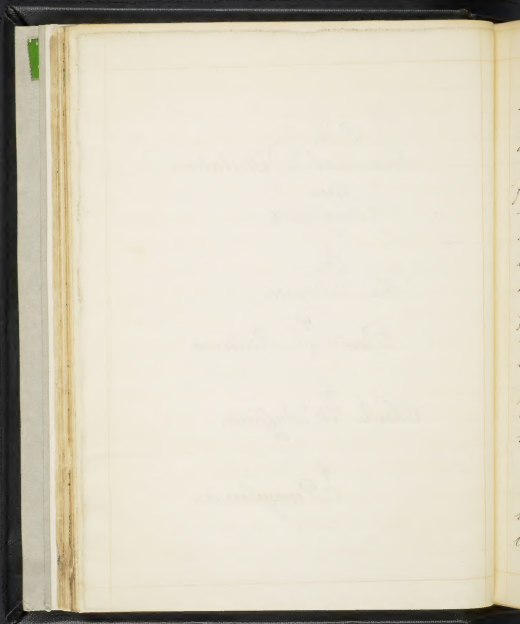


An
Inaugural Dissertation:
upon
Hæmoptysis.

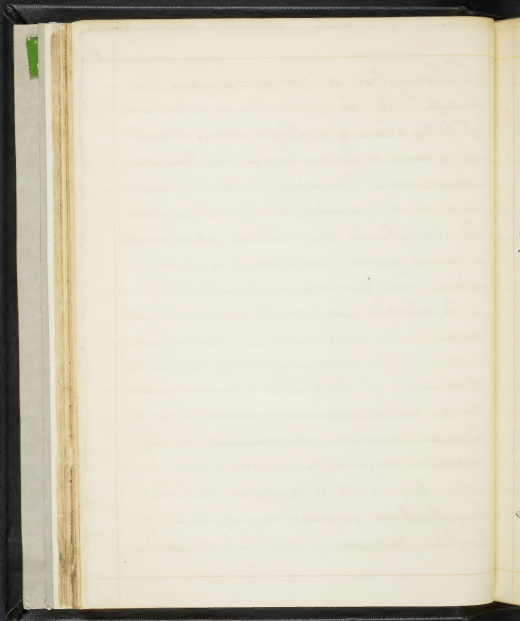
For
The Degree:
of
Doctor of Medicine.

by
Charles W. Duffield.

of
Pennsylvania.



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Hæmoptisis or Hemorrhage from the Lungs. In this disease there is a discharge of fothy blood, of a floride colour, brought up by more or less coughing, it has been confounded with ^{or} Hæmetæmesis, but it may easily be distinguished, in hemorrhage from the stomach, the blood thrown up is generally in much greater quantities, of a darker colour, more grumous, mixed with the contents of the stomach, and usually unattended with cough. The causes which more particularly conduce to Hæmoptisis, are certain peculiarities of structure, of this kind are a narrow, contracted thorax, elevated shoulders, a delicate habit of body, and sanguinous temperament, but this disposition congenial, or acquired, is excited into action, by a variety of causes, as loud, and long speaking, frequent singing, bursts of laughter, paroxysms of rage, violent exertion,

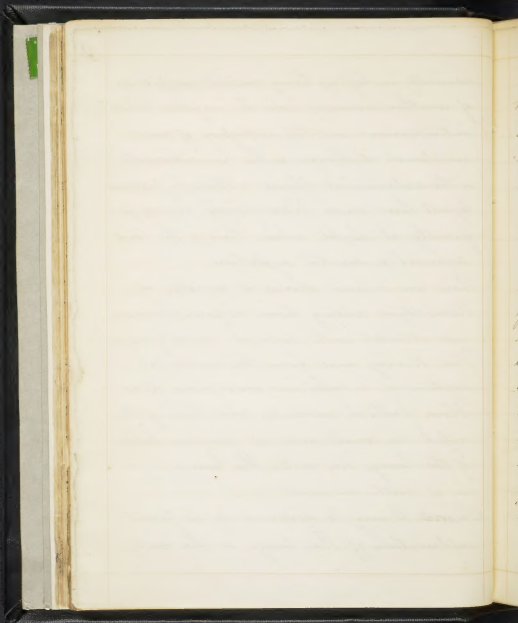


especially in lifting heavy weights, vicissitudes of weather, inducing catarrh, irregular habits, intemperance, and the suppression of some accustomed discharge, as the hæmorrhoidal, or the catamenial fluxes; although produced by all these causes, Hæmoptysis occurs frequently at night, when there is the least corporeal or mental agitation.

There are several species or varieties of Hæmoptysis, arising from different causes, and attended with different degrees of danger.

First. It may arise from the accidental rupture of a vessel, in consequence of a blow, fall, or wound, and here if the vessel be small and no previous disease of the lungs has existed the hæmorrhage is of little moment.

Second. It may be occasioned by excessive inflammation of the lungs, in the early



stage of Pleurisy, or Pleuripneumonia, and even here it is not a very serious circumstance.

Third. It may result from plethory, or an accumulation of blood, in the lungs, which is relieved by periodical discharges from these organs, cases of this kind are not necessarily connected with full and plethoric habits, but often occur in the weak and valetudinary, and although they often result in consumption yet this is not the invariable result, many instances of prodigious longevity, under such circumstances have been known to take place.

Fourth. Hemoptysis may occur from abscess, or ulceration, in the lungs, following ill cured pneumonia inflammation, the discharge in these cases, is generally mixed with phlegm, or purulent matter even here the hemorrhage subsides, and the patient recovers.

Fifth. It may also arise from tubercles associated with a scrofulous diathesis, and although blood is not discharged in great quantities, yet the disease generally terminates in Phthisis Pulmonalis, and is almost always fatal.

Hæmoptysis may be divided into active, and passive. I shall first speak of active, or that which connected with signs of increased arterial action, or febrile excitement, it is ushered in by a sense of weight, and oppression at the chest, and sometimes of burning under the sternum, a dry hard cough, difficulty of respiration, tickling of the fauces, full and active pulse, and flushed countenance, it is sometimes preceded by more distinct symptoms, of a febrile nature, as chills, cold extremities, pain in the back, and loins, flatulency, and constipation, followed by much heated excitement.

The prognosis may be considered favourable

under the direct action of common causes only, and not from medication, or malpraxis. 1. The tumour being 2. and, the blood being small in quantity, and 3. a bright red colour, its most dangerous period is cough, pain, dyspnea, or other indications of the lungs.

Thrombosis is an seldom fatal on account of the loss of blood, but chiefly to be dreaded on account of the existing morbid condition of the lungs, which it indicates, viz. the presence of tubercles in various parts.

The medical indication in the treatment of cancer is removal, but is sometimes difficult, and limited, in the first place, to the extraction of a large portion, for that purpose various modes have been resorted to, as Amputation, and this has been objected to by some practitioners, but the principle of it is almost universally conceded to, to be of service however in the more

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critical cases it is indispensable, according to the
 direction of blood should be various, small and
 repeated bleedings, are attended with inconveniences,
 too many and debilitate the patient, without
 contributing to the cure.

To see as the function is completed, or how often
 it is performed, common salt should be admin-
 istered in the form of a draught quite or more,
 according to circumstances, every 10, 15, or 20 min-
 utes, it should be mixed in the form of the
 patient in a tea Spg. and suffered to drink
 gradually at the opening of his mouth. There is
 no doubt, it equals all the other methods,
 and how it operates is not very intelligible.

It is more than possible, however, that the action
 produced by it on the Lungs, is extended to
 sympathizing to the Lungs, and these proves
 antecedent to the secretions of the bleeding
 vessels.

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The circulation within the vessels of the brain
 is in the various cases, so as to be regulated
 in some, and sometimes, clothes wet with
 cold water, and even ice applied in a number
 are highly beneficial, in stopping hemorrhage.
 It has been customary of late to use Vaccinium
 album in this disease, but is no new practice,
 as treated of internal hemorrhage if it was
 not common in Europe, it is so often the
 result indiscriminately, in cases, giving no
 hemorrhage, in whatever part of the body it
 occurs. Nothing is better ascertained than that
 the use of it should always be resorted
 to, when P.S. when falling and activity
 of the mind exist, its action with peculiar
 force in Hemorrhages of the uterine system,
 is not invariably reduced. Vigor of mind will
 not only be inefficient, but injurious.
 P.S. should be resorted to as long as there is



any increased vigour in the circulation, then
 The tinct may be used in the dose of 2 or 3 grs,
 combined with a small portion of Opium,
 given every 2, or 3 hours, or as often as the case
 may demand.

Some practitioners have great confidence
 in Alum, & even divide a Hemorrhage in
 two non. It is not divided, and indiscriminately
 prescribed both in active, and passive, but
 Professor Cullenman, says it being powerfully
 astringent, and even stimulant, it checked
 more or not, without its previous
 reduction of adhesive action, & hearse hem-
 orrhage it is utterly unsuitable, and were
 we to prescribe it at all, it would be after
 the hemorrhage had been restrained by
 depletion measures, rather to prevent the
 recurrence of the discharge, than to check it.
 Narcotics have been recommended in this

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from a hemorrhage, but no counter given to
 mild irritation, and decided salutary action, by
 their supposed sedative influence.

Therm. was sometimes in very beneficial
 in cases where men, with great irritation,
 of the membranes, organs, attended general
 with spasmodic action, by doing away
 with we may succeed in many instances
 & effectually terminating the hemorrhage.
 Tartar has been again resorted to in active
 hemorrhage, by some practitioners, whilst
 others think not better.

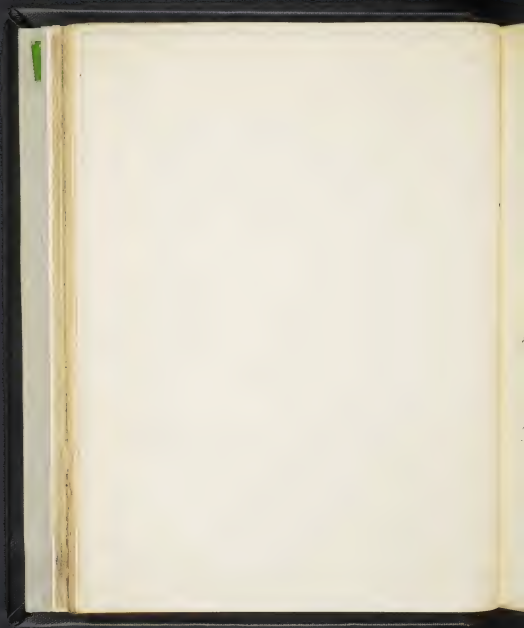
It is nearly now a century since Emetics
 were recommended in this disease, by Doctor
 Bayon, Robinson, & Dobson, in a time in
 which obtained considerable attention, but
 seems finally to have been altogether
 abandoned. Whatever influence & opinion
 may exist, as to the propriety of emetics,

in Rheumatism, but useful in minute doses is
acknowledged, by almost every one, to be a medicine
is not in it as an astringent, which is
not considered worse than astringents.
In cancer it is not even much used.
and even considerable reduction, &c. and to
revive the system, it is used.

Spilacanthum in small doses, is a very in-
valuable in Rheumatism & Arterial Spasm, &c.
and is very good, &c. &c. &c. &c. &c. &c.
to most Rheumatism & Arterial Spasm, &c.
in most, &c. &c. &c. &c. &c. &c. &c. &c. &c.
or the case may demand.

It is given 20 or 30 drops a Day at regular
intervals, which may be continued 10 or 15 days,
and sometimes longer.

Refrigerans are a good kind of medicine
in Hemiplegia, the whole of the natural
acts, are of its description, but the most



variable of these is the nitrate of Silver, no-
 named cathartics is more prescribed than this,
 and hence it is often injudiciously employed.
 It is an important medicine in reducing
 the force of febrile excitements and in this
 way proves an important auxiliary.
 4. The Laxative: A stimulant solution of it
 is rather useful in the dose of a table
 spoon full, at short intervals, has been
 a popular prescription in Hemorrhoids.
 As soon as the flow of blood is arrested, we
 should resort to saline purges, to keep
 the bowels in a soluble state, for this
 unresolvable chrom Salts, being left abt. to nau-
 sate the stomach, should be removed,
 although calomel, Magnesia, &c. may
 also be employed.

5. Hemorrhoids is not uncommonly accom-
 panied with a deranged state of the



Two Vials, and in these cases 4 or 5 grains, of the
 Blue Pill, given every other night until ^{worked} off
 the next morning by one of the purgatives,
 not mentioned, is of decided advantage.
 Proceeding with these remedies, there are
 some local abstractions, of as much
 consequence, to be neglected.

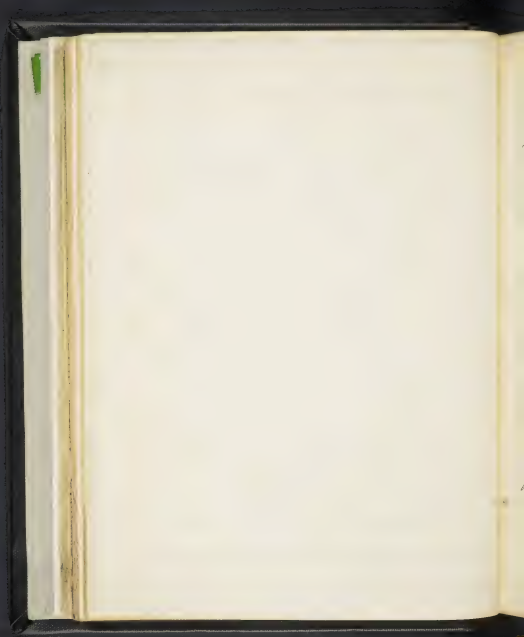
I have already stated the utility of cold
 abstractions, in the Throat, and Anus.
 But when we find the advantage to
 continue, or when it attends an evolution,
 or a strong tendency to this state of things,
 even, we must resort to local bleedings,
 or the cauterizing, or blistering;
 when the further abstraction of Blood, is
 inadmissible, by cupping, will be found
 of great service. 40, or 50, cups, should be
 applied over the Thorax, and suffered to
 remain an hour, or two.

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There are different ^{opinions} in respect to the precise place for the application of blisters; some practitioners contend, that they are more efficacious, when applied to the wrists, or ankles, than any other parts, others say the back of the neck, but the majority, however are united as to the propriety of applying them, to the chest; too much cannot be said of the utility of blisters, in Hemoptysis, they have sometimes arrested the disease after all the other remedies have failed.

When called to a patient labouring under Hemoptysis, if we expect our remedies, to have the desired effect, it is necessary to attend to the following circumstances:

First, Direct the patient to be kept in a complete state of rest, in bed, with his shoulders, somewhat elevated, and his



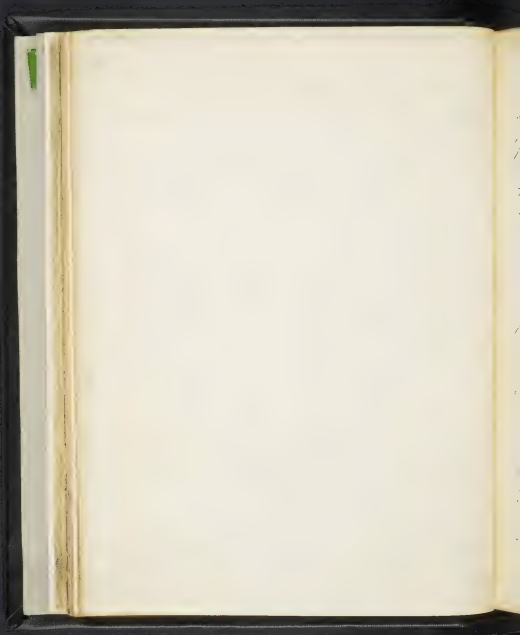
extremities completely extended.

Second. The chamber should be well ventilated, and kept cool.

Third. Company should be entirely excluded, and the patient should not be permitted to talk.

Fourth. The diet should consist of small quantities of demulcent drinks, agreeably acidulated, and then should be drank cold, it is essentially necessary that the stomach should not be loaded with aliment, or drink. Instead of active hemorrhage, we sometimes meet with the disease of a feeble action, or Passive Hemoptysis, these cases are attended with a dry, diminutive cough, feeble pulse, hectic flushes, soft skin, and sallow countenance.

The hemorrhage is generally small, but when extreme cavity prevails, the discharge



is copious, and sometimes flows in a stream, to check this the Spirits of Turpentine, is very useful,

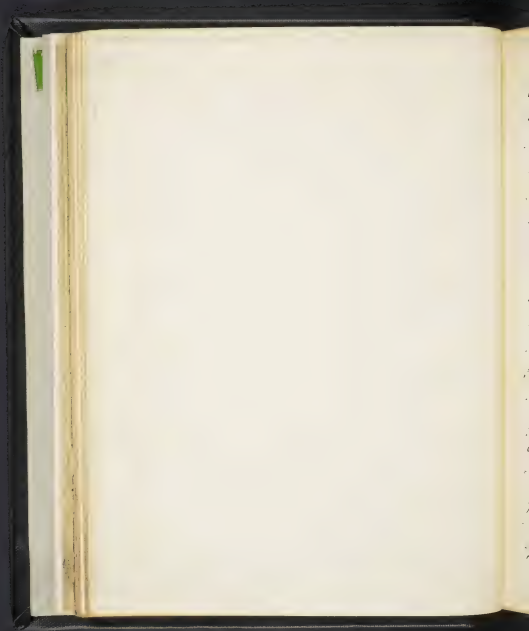
The indication is to support the system, and through it, to impart tone, to the lungs; for this purpose it is necessary to use the various Tonics, and astringents.

The Querc Bark, has always maintained a high reputation, in the treatment of passive Hemorrhage, it may be given alone, in infusion, in combination with myrrh, or with some of the chalybeate preparations; the vegetable astringents may also be employed, in this form of the disease, particularly Kino, and Catechu, the mineral acids are of advantage, of which the Sulphuric is the best, to subvert the flow of blood, and the nitric, to change the morbid action, on which the hemorrhage depends.

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These are the principal remedies, employed in
 isipive hemorrhage, of the lungs, but they
 should be aided, by the use of moderate
 exercise, by a nourishing, though not stimu-
 -lating diet, and such drinks, as corroborate
 without heating, or stimulating, the system,
 the best are malt liquors, and of these,
 Porter is preferable. In the habitual use
 of this article, the weaker states of Pleurop-
 -tisis, have frequently been cured.

Riding on Horseback, is often of peculiar
 advantage, but when it is recommended,
 there should be no local congestion, or
 profuse hemorrhage, from the lungs,
 under favourable circumstances, a journey
 is of immense value, to the patient, by
 removing the little remnant of disease,
 and establishing, a new order of health.
 But unfortunately most cases of —



Hæmoptysis leave behind them a disposition to relapse, from the slightest provocations; to guard against which, a certain course should be pursued by the patient.

First. Avoid every thing that would be likely to give an impulse to circulation, hence we should direct a diet, of the mildest articles, as Milk, eggs, &c, with gentle exercise. Second. By every possible precaution avoid taking cold, nothing is more apt to produce a return of the hæmorrhages than a catarrh, when thus reproduced it is often extremely obstinate, and generally followed by fatal consequences.

Third. In cases where there is a strong predisposition, to this disease, the state of the pulse, and respiration, should be accurately observed, pain, or oppression, in the thorax, or any unusual activity of the

circulation, affords sufficient grounds for apprehension, and we should recommend small bleedings, and still lower diet, than previously used, complete rest, and some cooling medicine, as the neutral salts, in fact the antiphlogistic plan, should be strictly observed.

Ramoptysis sometimes resists all our endeavours to cure it, in such cases, we should advise the removal of the patient, to a warmer climate, and if practicable, the removal be by sea, it is true that often fails, but there is abundant testimony to satisfy us, that cures have now and then, been effected by a sea voyage, and the effects of a warmer, and more regular, climate.

